

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) A method of making recombinant proteins using one or more apoptosis inhibitors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding an apoptosis inhibitor,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and the apoptosis inhibitor, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

Claims 2-37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (New) A method of making recombinant proteins using one or more apoptosis inhibitors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and the caspase-9 dominant negative protein, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

Claim 39 (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of admixing an additional apoptosis inhibitor into the cell culture media in steps (e) or (f).

Claim 40 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the vector of step (a) and the vector of step (b) are the same vector.

Claim 41 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the vectors of steps (a) and (b) are two separate vectors.

Claim 42 (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the vectors of steps (a) and (b) comprise different antibiotic resistance selection markers.

Claim 43 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the host cells are cultured under conditions for transient expression of the protein of interest.

Claim 44 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the protein of interest comprises a protein which is capable of inducing apoptosis in a mammalian or non-mammalian cell.

Claim 45 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said cell culture media is serum-free media.

Claim 46 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein said cell culture media comprises butyrate.

Claim 47 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein after step (f), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

Claim 48 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.

Claim 49 (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 50 (New) A method of making recombinant proteins using one or more apoptosis inhibitors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (b) providing a host cell comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (c) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of step (a),
- (d) providing cell culture media,
- (e) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and the caspase-9 dominant negative protein and optionally
- (f) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or cell culture media.

Claim 51 (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the gene encoding the caspase-9 dominant negative protein is stably integrated into the genome of the host cell.

Claim 52 (New) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of admixing an additional apoptosis inhibitor molecule into the cell culture media in steps (d) or (e).

Claim 53 (New) The method of claim 51 wherein said cell culture media comprises butyrate.

Claim 54 (New) The method of claim 51 wherein after step (e), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

Claim 55 (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.

Claim 56 (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 57 (New) A method of making recombinant proteins using one or more apoptosis inhibitors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,

- (b) providing a host cell,
- (c) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of step (a),
- (d) providing cell culture media,
- (e) providing an amount of caspase inhibitor z-VAD-fmk,
- (f) admixing the caspase inhibitor into the cell culture media,
- (g) culturing the host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest, and optionally
- (h) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

Claim 58 (New) The method of claim 57 wherein after step (g), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

Claim 59 (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the host cell is a mammalian host cell.

Claim 60 (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the host cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 61 (New) A method of increasing yield of a protein of interest in a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and an amount of the caspase-9 dominant negative protein which is effective in increasing yield of the protein of interest, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.

Claim 62 (New) The method of claim 61 wherein said cell culture media is serum-free media.

Claim 63 (New) The method of claim 61 wherein after step (f), the host cell(s) and/or cell culture media is frozen and subsequently thawed.

Claim 64 (New) A method of prolonging host cell viability in a cell culture, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding caspase-9 dominant negative protein,
- (b) providing a vector comprising a gene encoding a protein of interest,
- (c) providing a host cell,
- (d) transforming or transfecting the host cell with the vector of steps (a) and (b),
- (e) providing cell culture media,
- (f) culturing the transformed or transfected host cell in the cell culture media under conditions sufficient for expression of the protein of interest and an amount of caspase-9 dominant negative protein which is effective for prolonging viability of the host cells in the cell culture, and optionally
- (g) recovering or purifying the protein of interest from the host cell and/or the cell culture media.